

What is Claimed is:

1. A light source, comprising:

a lamp providing randomly polarized light;

5 an integrator for directing light from the lamp along an axis of the integrator; and
a wire-grid polarizer disposed at a first end of the integrator.

2. The light source according to claim 1, wherein the wire-grid polarizer is
disposed at a light input end of the integrator.

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3. The light source according to claim 1, wherein the wire-grid polarizer is
disposed at a light output end of the integrator.

4. The light source according to claim 1, wherein the lamp is a mercury arc lamp
15 with an elliptical or a parabolic reflector.

5. The light source according to claim 1, wherein a second end of the integrator is
free of any polarization means.

20 6. A Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine, comprising:
a lamp providing randomly polarized light;
an integrator for directing light from the lamp along an axis of the integrator;
a wire-grid polarizer disposed at a first end of the integrator; and
a Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) imager for modulating the polarized light from the
25 integrator on a pixel-by-pixel basis responsive to a video signal to form a video image.

7. The Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine according to claim 6 further comprising a clean-up polarization means disposed between the wire-grid polarizer and the Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) imager.

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8. The Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine according to claim 7 wherein the clean-up polarization means is a polarizing beam splitter.

9. The Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine according to claim 7
10 wherein the clean-up polarization means is a linear polarizer.

10. The Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine according to claim 6, wherein the wire-grid polarizer is disposed at a light input end of the integrator.

11. The Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine according to claim 6,
15 wherein the wire-grid polarizer is disposed at a light output end of the integrator.

12. The Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine according to claim 11, wherein the wire-grid polarizer is about the size of the output end of the integrator.

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13. The Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine according to claim 6, wherein the lamp is a mercury-arc lamp with an elliptical or a parabolic reflector.

14. The Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) light engine according to claim 6,
25 wherein a second end of the integrator is free of any polarization means.